

# FIRE GUARD Newsletter

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## *Let's RETIRE FIRE*

STATE DOCUMENTS COLLECTION

AUG 8 2 1990

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HELENA, MONTANA 59620



In your town and across the country, a single group of citizens is at the greatest risk of dying in a fire. Who is this group? Americans over 65. Consider these statistics:

- Every year, more than 1,300 Americans over 65 die in fires.
- People over 80 die in fires at a rate three times higher than the rest of the population.
- 75 percent of the older Americans who die in fires do not even have a working smoke detector.

Of all the groups you serve, it's older Americans who need your help the most.

**Seniors – a special group with special concerns**

Meet Flo and Walt, a couple of fiery personalities. When they get together the sparks really fly. But don't just laugh at their misadventures, home fires happen every day and illustrate the need for all of us to "Retire Fire."

## WHAT'S INSIDE

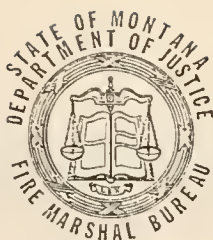
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# PLEASE RETURN

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## MFIRS SOFTWARE

A.L. Varone

The cost of computer software will soon be increasing from \$200. I have not yet been notified just how much more it will be, but if your department has been considering converting to computer reporting, now is the time to make the purchase.

As I mentioned in previous articles, the State Fire Marshal has decided to include the reporting of hazardous materials incidents beginning January 1, 1990; the completion of the appropriate software will soon be available. The increase in the \$200 cost is a reflection of the added software. Those departments that are already reporting via computer disks will receive this upgrade free of charge and, if you decide to make the purchase now, you will also receive the upgrade at no additional cost.

To date there are thirteen departments who use computer reporting:

- Belgrade Volunteer Fire Department
- Billings Fire Department
- Bozeman Fire Department
- Butte Fire Department
- Culbertson Volunteer Fire Department
- Evergreen Volunteer Fire Department
- Florence Volunteer Fire Department
- Great Falls Fire Department
- Helena Fire Department
- Kalispell Fire Department
- Libby Volunteer Fire Department
- Missoula Fire Department
- Missoula Rural Fire Department

If you are a small, volunteer fire department and cannot afford to buy a computer/software, what you might consider doing is contacting other departments near you and going together to buy a computer/software. You could then assign one person to input the reports for each respective FDID number and submit in that manner. There are some regulations, however, that must be adhered to if this is done. For example; the software cannot be used on more than the original machine. If three computers will be used then three copies of the software must be purchased. What you need to do is mail (or deliver) the incident reports to the department that has the software and someone there do the inputting. Copyright laws do

not allow for the software to be used on more than one computer.

If you are interested in taking a look at how the program works, I have a demonstration disc available for you to view. Give me a call at 444-2050 or Our goal is to have all of Montana reporting via computer by 1995.

## NFIRS DATA USED IN AUTO SAFETY STUDIES

A.L. Varone

We were recently contacted by the U.S.F.A. requesting specific data on possible vehicular malfunctions. Montana was not able to furnish any statistics because the appropriate information, that is required on the Incident Report, **WAS NOT SUPPLIED BY MONTANA FIRE DEPARTMENTS.** Other states, however, were able to comply with the request and the following vehicle recall resulted, as reported by F.E.M.A.:

*Data from the U.S. Fire Administration's National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) has provided material aid to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). NHTSA, a part of the U.S. Department of Transportation, carries out programs relating to the safety performance of motor vehicles. The Administration can require a manufacturer to take corrective action, including recalls.*

*NFIRS is a nationally standardized fire reporting system. Participation is voluntary (legislated as mandatory in Montana and other states). Currently, about 40% of the nation's 33,000 fire departments participate. NFIRS receives reports on approximately 1,000,000 fires a year, of which some 300,000 are motor*



vehicle fires. NHTSA receives copies of NFIRS data tapes, and the two Administrations cooperate on analyzing the data. A recent recall (No. 89V-095) was based, in part, on NFIRS data.

The recall concerned Ford Escort, EXP, and Mercury Lynx. The problem was that the cylinder head cracked and leaked oil onto the hot manifold, causing a fire. Also, oil leakage from a split valve cover gasket onto the hot exhaust manifold would cause fires. The recall affected some 481, 000 vehicles.

The staff of NHTSA's Office of Defect Investigation used actual vehicles in testing and inspected cars of these makes and model years. NHTSA also uses information from other sources including complaints from the public, and reports from manufacturers. The non-crash fire rate for the 1985 1/2 Escort was double the industry average.

Presented with this information and the accompanying technical analysis, Ford Motor Company announced a safety recall of the affected models.

We receive many requests for statistical information and more often than not we are unable to give complete, accurate or, as in this case, **NO** data. The fault lies in the fire departments' failure, that means you, to complete the Fire Incident Reports completely and/or accurately. This has happened frequently enough to require appropriate action be taken.

Beginning January 1, 1989 the Fire Marshal Bureau has been returning incomplete or incorrect Incident Reports to you for correction. Although it may seem a lot of work, this information is collected for a very critical reason: to save lives and prevent fires. The data can be provided by you and only you. We rely on your reports and we must insist they be completed, to the best of your ability, as accurately and fully as possible.

It is not uncommon to receive reports with only the first section completed and "N/A" written in all other areas.

Obviously the person assigned to completing the incident reports realizes this is not proper, nor is he/she fulfilling their responsibility to their community, their fellow firefighters, the state of Montana nor their country.

Firefighters have a reputation, a GOOD reputation, for concern of their fellow man. You save lives. You protect property. You are heroes. That is the good part; the part all of you like. Another part is keeping correct documentation and reporting that information to the state of Montana. It is integral to continuing to save lives and protect property; on a nation-wide basis. Remember, it is a law in Montana and we want to collect accurate information.

If you have any questions when completing the report, our staff is always available. Our number is 444-2050. Celia Senrud can answer most of your questions. If necessary, we will contact NFIC and obtain an answer. We also provide MFIRS questions in the newsletter. Remember, we are here to assist you. All you have to do is ask.

## MFIRS QUESTIONS

Celia Senrud

1. Q. A question was asked by Milt Hovland, Plentywood Rural Fire Department; "What is wrong with using a code of '1' for an explosion and fire?"

A. The Type of Situation Found code requires two digits. Your NFIRS Handbook illustrates '1' as Fire, Explosion. However, this is a heading of the subdivision which lists each type of situation found in detail.

2. Q. I recently received Incident Report Forms that are three part. What do I do with all of these copies?

A. The white copy is for the Fire Marshal Bureau. The other two are for your department.

3. Q. I am confused on how to correctly code an owner and occupant name on a car fire in a shopping center parking lot.

A. There is an illustration on page 250-252 of your NFIRS Handbook that explains the proper procedure.

4. Q. If the owner and occupant are the same person is it necessary to write the complete name again on line 1?

A. No, you may enter the word 'same' on line 1.

5. Q. I coded an Incident Report for Type of Situation Found as a 63 (controlled burn) and for Ignition Factor an 11 (incendiary). Why did you circle the Ignition Factor? The fire was deliberately set.

A. Page 190-193 of your NFIRS Handbook cites examples of how to code Unauthorized Burning, Controlled Burning and Outside Structure fires.

## ARBITRATION/LABOR RELATIONS CONFERENCE

MONTANA ARBITRATORS ASSOCIATION  
NEWS RELEASE

The eleventh annual Montana Arbitration/Labor Relations Conference will be held in Billings at the Sheraton Hotel on May 17 and 18, 1990.

The dinner speaker is John Calhoun Wells, President of the John Gray Institute (a component of Lamar University) and Secretary of the Kentucky Labor Cabinet. His speech will address the role of state government and the importance of labor-management relations to economic development.

The Conference keynote speaker, Professor Joel Cutcher-Gershenfeld of the Michigan State University School of Labor and Industrial Relations will discuss the bargaining process and structural changes occurring in labor-management relations.

Other presenters are Thomas Karier, Associate Professor of economics at Eastern Washington University and research fellow at the Jerome Levy Economics Institute; William Hembree, Director of the Health Research Institute; Jane Wilkinson, attorney, arbitrator and former chair of the Washington Public Employment Relations Commission; John Abernathy, member of the American Academy of Arbitrators and Doug Hammond, Federal Mediator.

The Montana Board of Continuing Legal Education has approved the conference for 9.25 CLE credits. The conference, co-sponsored by the National Labor Relations Board, the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, the Montana Board of Personnel Appeals and the Montana Arbitrators Association begins with registration at 11:00 A.M. Thursday, May 17. The fee is \$90 (\$95 at the door).

For more information contact Butch Plowman, Conference Coordinator, P.O. Box 9292, Helena, Montana 59604-9292 (444-4584) or John Astle (494-3873).

## MULTIPLE DEFENSES AVAILABLE TO FRAUDULENT CLAIMS

James L. Jones

Dorsey & Whitney Insurance Newsletter  
Montana Edition - March, 1990

When investigating a suspicious claim, insurance claims personnel should keep in mind that there are often several defenses available to fraudulent claims. The insured who intentionally causes a loss or creates a fictitious loss usually violates more than one policy provision, either in connection with the loss or in submitting the claim to the company. Proving a violation of policy conditions may be easier than proving that the loss never occurred or that the insured caused it.

The defenses that must be carefully considered and investigated include the following: (1) intentional act by the insured; (2) misrepresentation or concealment during the claims process; (3) misrepresentation in the application for the policy; (4) increased hazard by the insured or knowledge of increased hazard by the mortgagee; (5) refusal to submit to examination under oath or to answer questions or produce documents; and (6) failure to submit proof of loss within the time required by the policy.

While a thorough investigation is necessary to prove the insured's involvement in causing the loss, it is also the only way to discover these other defenses. The courts have long recognized that intentional losses are usually accompanied by misrepresentations during the claims process. Similarly, an insured who has something to hide will not violate his "duties in the event of loss" unless the company at least asks him to comply by submitting a proof of loss, answering questions, producing relevant documents and submitting to an examination under oath.

Dorsey & Whitney recently handled a claim for USF&G where the insured submitted a large but fictitious theft claim. During the investigation, it was learned that prior to purchasing the policy, the insured had submitted a theft claim to another company for some of the same items. The insured refused to answer questions about his financial condition during our examination under oath. The claim was denied and declaratory judgment action filed against the insured on the grounds that (1) the loss never occurred; (2) misrepresentation in the application; (3) misrepresentations during the claims process; and (4) refusal to answer questions at the EUO. The insured failed to appear and judgement was entered for USF&G.

In a trial won for New Hampshire Insurance Company, the jury found arson by the insured, misrepresentations in the application, and misrepresentations in the claims process. Although the required number of jurors agreed with each defense, they were not all the same jurors. Some agreed with all three defenses, some with two defenses, and some with only one defense.



**Federal Emergency Management Agency**  
**United States Fire Administration**  
Emmitsburg, Maryland 21727



December 1989

**AN OPEN LETTER TO ALL EMERGENCY RESPONSE AGENCIES:**

Firefighters, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, and other emergency response personnel face numerous unique circumstances where they are at risk for exposure to blood, body fluids, and other potentially infectious materials. Their awareness and active protection against infectious diseases are vital to the health of these public servants and to the communities they serve.

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), caused by the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), is perhaps the most widely publicized disease affecting emergency response personnel. Hepatitis-B, however, poses a much greater occupational health risk, as each year 20,000 health care workers become infected and at least 200 health care workers die of work-related Hepatitis-B infections.

The United States Fire Administration (USFA) feels strongly that all health care workers, particularly firefighters, emergency medical technicians, paramedics and other emergency response personnel, be offered immunization against vaccine-preventable diseases, such as Hepatitis-B. The U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) agrees and has mandated this for all employees covered by OSHA regulations.

Hepatitis-B is only one of the vaccine-preventable diseases that emergency response personnel need to be concerned with. According to the current Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices Guidelines published by the Centers for Disease Control, "All persons providing health care to older adolescents and adults in private offices, clinics, hospitals, HMOs, and other health care settings should be provided with immunization against influenza; with pneumococcal, Hepatitis-B, measles, and rubella vaccines; and with tetanus and diphtheria toxoids, when indicated." Firefighters, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, and other emergency response personnel fall into this group and should be afforded this protection.

The USFA Office of Firefighter Health & Safety is actively responding to the impact of infectious diseases on the fire service and other emergency response professionals. In August, we held a "Second Forum on Communicable Diseases" with emergency medical and infection control experts, fire service professionals, physicians, attorneys, and allied Federal agency representatives. We spent three days discussing infection control curriculum development, vaccination, related legal issues, pending Federal legislation regarding occupational exposure to infectious diseases, employee rights, and models of fire department record-keeping of exposures. We reviewed the progress of the 1988 Forum recommendations, and developed new recommendations for the coming year. Detailed findings and recommendations have been published in the USFA Report on the Second Forum on Communicable Diseases, which is available from:

The United States Fire Administration  
Office of Firefighter Health & Safety  
16825 South Seton Avenue  
Emmitsburg, Maryland 21727

It is up to each emergency response agency to ensure that all emergency responders have the training, equipment, and protection to do their job safely. When they are saving lives, they must first protect their own. Make certain that your professionals can do just that.

Sincerely,

Edward M. Wall

Deputy Administrator, U. S. Fire Administration



### **Advisory Council Meets May 11 - 12**

The Fire Training Advisory Council will meet in Great Falls. Following are the items on their agenda:

Discuss replacement of Phil Frank

Task Force 90

Modifying Certification Standards by adding Hazardous Materials and Emergency Evacuation. Move emergency mask procedures from 2 to 1, and modify the 2 and 3 standards to make a 3 an initial attack IC.

Certification committees and certification board

Correspondence about certification

The feasibility of a "Life Safety Tech" Certification

Resource Center fees for the next fiscal year

The possible acquisition of the Great Falls Training Center

FSTS Seminar plan

Budget, priorities and modified request

### **THANKS FOLKS!**

Attendees at FSTS Courses set a new record during the 90 winter quarter. Thirty-one courses were delivered at twenty-five locations with 776 attendees. Attendance climbed 24% over the same period last year. Amazingly, direct costs for training delivery dropped 12%.

### **EXAM SCORES**

Anyone wishing to know their score on any exam may do so by calling FSTS. A handwritten request is also acceptable. You may also authorize release of your grade to your chief, by writing a statement on the top of the FSTS exam that you wish to have your score released, followed by your signature.

**CURIOUS  
KIDS  
SET FIRES**

### **FREE MEDIA KITS AVAILABLE**

FSTS has several "Curious Kids Set Fires" Media Kits. These Kits contain newspaper ads with graphic slicks, and radio scripts. Call the Resource Center for your copy.

#### **NEW FSTS COMPUTER PROGRAM**

If you attend an FSTS Course, please sign the roll sheet provided by the instructor. With our new computer program all information requested is required for the program to work. **IT IS VERY IMPORTANT** that you sign in.



## SEVERAL NEW BOOKS AVAILABLE

New IFSTA Manuals and editions.

Principles of Extrication  
Fire Streams (6th Edition)  
Company Officer (2nd Edition)

These IFSTA Manuals are available from the Montana Fire Chiefs Association; Jim Balke; Box 382; Belgrade 59714 or Phone: 388-6863.

Another book of general interest is Rural Firefighting Operations Book 3 by Larry Davis & Lee Hustead. This third Book covers A to Z on fire control. All three of the Davis Books are available from Int'l Society of Fire Instructors, (508) 881-5800.

Fire and Arson Investigators Guide is a free 165 page directory of resources in explosives, firearms, fraud, appliances, equipment, home construction, personal and commercial vehicles. Copies of the Directory #FA-91 are available from U.S. Fire Administration, FEMA, Box 70274, Washington, DC 20024.



The pessimist complains about the wind; the optimist expects it to change; the realist adjusts the sails.

## HOT TIMES

WITH

# FLO & WALT

"Where There's Smoke..."



When Flo smokes in bed,  
 she can turn sweet dreams  
 into nightmares!

Smoking can be a major fire hazard in your house. Follow these easy tips to be safe at home:

- DON'T smoke in bed.
- DON'T leave ashtrays on chair or sofa arms where they can spill.
- DON'T leave cigarettes burning in ashtrays unattended.
- DON'T empty ashtrays into a wastebasket.
- DO install smoke detectors in your home and check the batteries regularly.

Call your local fire  
 department to learn more  
 information



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 the United States Fire Administration



## FIRE FIGHTER CERTIFICATION

Equivalency Fire Fighter II and III certifications are still available from FSTS. Experience of two and three years respectively, is required. Applicants must complete a FF2 or FF3 Checklist which is available from FSTS for \$3.00. This Checklist covers the Montana Standards for Fire Fighters and requires demonstration of skills by the applicant. Fire Chiefs are required to sign off each skill, but the Advisory Council is expected to extend sign off authority to Certified Instructors when they meet in May.

Fire Fighters with less than 1 year's service and those desiring comprehensive competency testing may apply for the Fire Fighter I Program. Montana Fire Fighter I Standards are used for testing and the certificates issued are nationally recognized. (Not an equivalency certificate.) The first portion of the examination process is administered locally and the second by FSTS representatives.

## FIRE FIGHTER RECERTIFICATION

Fire fighters receiving a recertification notice in the mail should note the expiration date on their certificate. If you wish to have a recertification issued, complete the training record form and return it to FSTS, prior to the expiration date of expiration of your current certificate.

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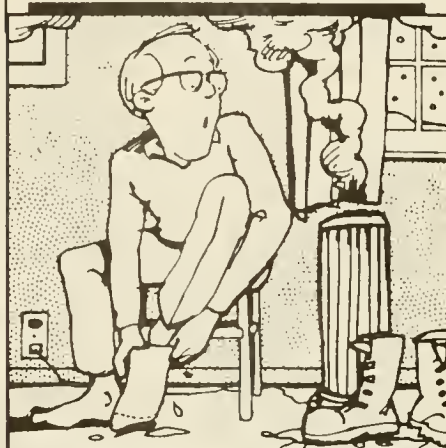
**"We are here to add what we can to, not get what we can from, life." Sir William Osler**

## HOT TIMES

WITH

# FLO & WALT

### "Curtains For You"



**To get warm and toasty, Walt puts a heater near the curtains.**

Heating can be a major fire hazard in your house. Follow these easy tips to be safe at home.:

- DON'T place alternate heaters within three feet of flammable materials.
- DON'T use alternate heaters to dry wet clothes.
- DON'T use extension cords with alternate heaters.
- DO unplug alternate heaters after you turn them off.
- DO install smoke detectors in your home and check the batteries regularly.

Call your local fire department to learn more information



**Let's Retire Fire is brought to you by the United States Fire Administration**

## HEPATITIS B PREPAREDNESS

by

Kraig Hansen, Harlem Chief

It's 3 AM on a Sunday morning when the pager rings out with an all too familiar call, "Vehicle accident, possible extrication, ambulance and fire departments, please respond." For the chief of a volunteer fire department, this used to mean a routine job of assisting the ambulance crews in extricating victims safely and getting them to proper medical treatment. In North Central Montana, a new threat must be dealt with - Hepatitis B.

All vehicle accidents in Blaine County are now treated as hazardous materials incidents since a recent outbreak of Hepatitis B and AIDS has become a reality. While there is no relationship between Hepatitis B and AIDS, both are transmitted the same way - through co-mingling of infected blood and/or bodily fluids with fresh cuts, abrasions or bodily fluids, including absorbing fluids in the eyes.

Since January 1, 1990 Blaine County has had seven confirmed cases of Hepatitis B. Hill County has had 22 confirmed cases of Hepatitis B. There are no confirmed AIDS cases at this time, although the spread of both diseases can easily reach epidemic proportions. We have established standard operating procedures to protect our fire fighters.

One of the most disheartening tasks I can think of as a Fire Chief is having a fire fighter, committed to his family and community, infected in the line of duty. The following procedures are now practiced at accident scenes.

1. Rubber gloves and goggles are now standard equipment when the fire fighter is on the incident scene.
2. Every fire fighter on an incident has adopted a "look out for your fellow fire fighter" attitude. Fire fighters not wearing protective gear are promptly corrected and taken from the scene until properly outfitted.
3. All emergency personnel who want to be immunized, will receive immunization free of charge from Blaine County. At an average cost of \$100 per person, the County has obligated about \$12,000. This shows the high commitment that the Blaine County Commissioners have towards emergency personnel within the County.

Pre-testing is given to emergency personnel. The pre-test determines if individuals have been in contact with the disease, or are already immune. The immunization process involves three shots given over a six-month period. After immunization, the vaccine has proven to be 90% effective. A post-test is administered and a fourth dose is given. This fourth shot usually protects an additional 33%.

Our commitment to the individual fire fighter goes a long way in providing my personnel and me with peace of mind. I urge all fire chiefs to look into the possibility of immunizing their fire fighters.

**Tact is the art of jumping into troubled water without making a splash.**

## FOREST FIRE BILL INTRODUCED

Representative Claude Harris (D-AL) has introduced a bill to provide federal matching funds to help state forestry agencies and rural volunteer fire departments respond to forest fires. Called the National Fire Forces Mobilization Act, the bill in its amended form would authorize \$40 million to be distributed through the U.S. Forest Service. Half would be available to volunteer fire departments; half would be for state forestry agencies.

This Bill HR3955 has been incorporated into the 1990 Farm Bill and is expected to be passed by mid-summer.

All funding under this program would require matching funds or in-kind contributions, on a one-to-one basis, from state and local sources. Funds would be allocated under the program for training, equipment, mutual aid activities, technology transfer and public education. No funds would be available for construction of facilities.

Montana's Representative Ron Marlenee and Representative Pat Williams are sponsors the Bill.

## NFA SUPERINTENDENT RESIGNS

Chuck Boehne, Acting Superintendent of the National Fire Academy, has resigned effective April 13, 1990. There has been no official statement from FEMA. No further details were provided by the National Fire Academy or FEMA.

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"If I could sell my experience for what it cost me," sighed a retiring fire chief, "I could leave here a wealthy man."

## HOT TIMES

WITH

# FLO & WALT

## "Cooking Up Trouble"



When Flo wears droopy sleeves around the stove, she turns an ordinary meal into a real sizzler.

Cooking can be a major fire hazard in your house. Follow these easy steps to be safe at home:

- DON'T wear loose clothing or dangle dish towels near a hot stove.
- DON'T leave food unattended on the stove. If you must leave the room, take a pot holder or a wooden spoon as a reminder.
- DON'T use your oven to heat the room.
- DON'T let grease build up on your stove and oven. Clean grease away before it ignites.
- DO check the kitchen before bed: Oven off? Coffee pot unplugged?
- DO install smoke detectors in your home and check the batteries regularly.

Call your local fire department to learn more information.



Let's Retire Fire is brought to you by  
the United States Fire Administration



## PARADE NOTICE 1990

The Second Annual Fire Truck Parade will be held on Monday, July 2 at 5 PM. This is in conjunction with Livingston's Annual Roundup Parade. Last year, four engines dating from 1914 to 1938 participated. Two more local rigs will be available this year. Park Country Rural Fire District #1 is inviting all interested fire Companies to attend their parade.

All participants will receive a framed set of pictures of all units that participate and are welcome to the barbecue right after the parade. Please drop Chief Ken Hanson, Box 1134, Livingston, MT 59047 a letter if you plan on attending.

## WANTED!!!

Fort Belknap is looking for a 750 gpm, 500 gallon, midship engine. Contact Raymond Conner; Box 1042; Harlem, MT. 59526, Phone: 353-2651

## CERTIFICATION MATERIALS REVISIONS/BACKORDERS

For those of you with backordered certification materials the revised application and local test are now on hand. If your request has been received, it should be processed by the time you get the Fire Guard. That means you should have your application by May 5.

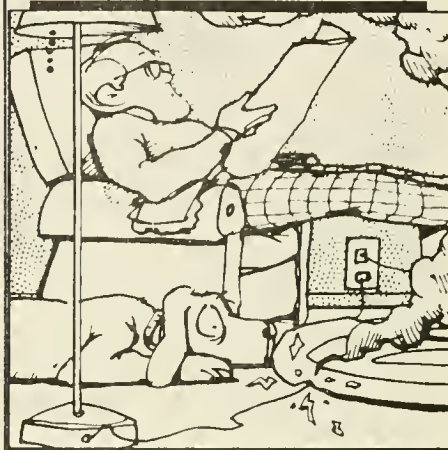
The new version of the Coaches Manual has been received and was field tested in West Glendive the last weekend in April. Corrections and modifications are likely, so we don't have an availability date yet. We are making progress thanks to the group of dedicated instructors who are volunteering their time for the project.

## HOT TIMES

WITH

# FLO & WALT

## "Wired For Fire"



When Walt runs a worn cord under the rug, he really sparks things up!

Electrical fires can be a major hazard in your house. Follow these easy tips to be safe at home:

- DON'T run electrical cords under rugs or in high traffic areas.
- DON'T staple electrical cords to walls or pierce insulation.
- DON'T overload electrical outlets with several appliances.
- DO install smoke detectors in your home and check the batteries regularly.

Call your local fire department to learn more information.



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the United States Fire Administration

# COMMAND AND CONTROL OF EXTRICATION OPERATIONS

by  
Michael A. Wieder  
Senior Publications Editor  
Fire Protection Publications

Perhaps the most important factor in running an efficient and organized emergency scene is the use of a formal incident command system. Using an incident command system is especially beneficial to smaller departments that are not accustomed to working large-scale incidents. Several variations of command systems are in use today. These include the National Interagency Incident Management Systems (NIMMS) and the fireground Command System.

Levels of manning, equipment available, and other standard operating procedures determine which incident command system will be established for any given organization. It is important that other responding organizations be familiar with the department's incident command system so they can function properly within its boundaries. It is also important that the system be used at every incident so the entire department becomes familiar with it.

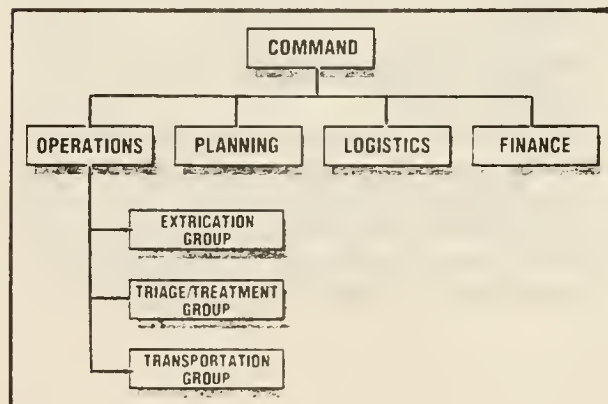
All incident command systems define **who** is in charge at all times. This position is called "command." The person assuming this position is called the incident commander. Generally, the first member on the scene, such as a fire fighter or a

company officer, takes command by advising the dispatcher that he or she is "in command." If more than one person arrives simultaneously, the senior person has the responsibility of taking command. This person has the full authority that goes with the position and remains in command until properly relieved by a superior.

At this level it does not necessarily mean that a formal command post has been established. However, a formal command post may be established if the incident involves multiple units, and it appears that it is going to be a working incident. After size-up and decision making, every extrication has two elements in common: scene assessment and site command and control. Each of these is overseen by the person in command.

## SCENE ASSESSMENT

The key to a successful extrication operation could depend on the proper assessment of the situation upon arrival. The individual who performs scene assessment should be the incident commander or first officer in charge. The officer must assess the incident and determine whether the initial response is sufficient to handle the situation. If not, it is essential that the officer summon additional resources to aid in the extrication effort. However, the vast majority of extrication incidents can be handled by the initial response units.



## **SITE COMMAND AND CONTROL OF GROUP OPERATIONS**

One advantage of any incident command system is that it can adapt to any type of incident. However, since extrication incidents generally have different task requirements than do most fire fighting operations, it is necessary to develop a special command structure for these incidents. Three special subcategories will be required to handle all extrication incidents: extrication, triage/treatment, and transportation.

If the NIIMS-ICS system is in use, these three groups fall under the Operations Section (figure 1). The operations chief will in turn report to the incident commander. Because the scale of most extrication incidents is small, it may not be necessary to establish an operations chief. The incident commander may choose to directly manage these entities. Based on the size of the incident, local policies will dictate the exact command structure desired.

The incident commander is responsible for the actions and coordination of the entire operation. On large-scale incidents, the incident commander will be in contact with the chiefs of each active area in the system. On smaller incidents, the incident commander will be in direct contact with the leaders of all the operations groups and will make certain they are interacting properly.

## **EXTRICATION GROUP OPERATIONS**

Each group should have one person in charge, a group commander to ensure that all of the responsibilities assigned to the group are completed. The group commander is also responsible for

coordinating with the incident commander and other group commanders. It is important to remember that the incident commander and group commanders should be clearly visible to personnel on the scene. Wearing colored vests over turnout equipment or marking a specific location or vehicle is a successful way to do this.

## **DUTIES OF EACH GROUP**

The extrication group's responsibilities will vary with the magnitude and complexity of the situation. In general, the extrication group is responsible for the following activities:

- \* Determining the number, location, and condition of the victim(s).
- \* Evaluating the resources required for the extrication of trapped victims.
- \* Determine whether treatment is necessary. If treatment is necessary, can it be safely conducted on site or will it be necessary to move the victims to another area before triage and treatment. If necessary, move victims to the triage area.
- \* Advising the incident commander of resource requirements.
- \* Allocating and supervising assigned resources and companies to the task of extricating.
- \* Reporting progress to the incident commander and giving an "all clear" when all of the victims have been removed.
- \* Coordinating with other groups.

## **Triage/Treatment Group**

The treatment group's responsibility is to triage and begin initial treatment of the victims. Victims should be stabilized and continually monitored until they are transported to a medical facility. Separate areas should be maintained for high-,



moderate-, and low-priority cases. It should be the duty of the treatment group to advise the transportation group leader of transportation needs and which victims should be removed first. The responsibilities of the treatment group can be summarized as follows:

- \* Determine the resources required to perform triage/treatment and advise the incident commander.
- \* Identify and establish suitable treatment areas for high-, moderate-, and low-priority victims. Locate these areas near an easily accessible pick-up point for transport. Advise the incident commander of these areas.
- \* Maintain an accurate count of patients and where they were transported.
- \* Assign and coordinate resources to provide suitable treatment for victims.
- \* Triage arriving victims and continually evaluate their condition.
- \* Determine transportation priorities. It may be possible to separate the slightly injured persons who are able to walk and locate them in an area easily accessible to cabs or other public transportation.
- \* Report progress to the incident commander.
- \* Coordinate with other groups.

### **Transportation Group**

The transportation group is responsible for taking stabilized victims to appropriate medical facilities. Coordination with the treatment group is essential for the transportation group to do its job properly. Transportation will not be the job of the rescue company. This function will most likely be handled by the emergency medical organization within the jurisdiction

of the incident. This does not mean that fire/rescue personnel should not be involved with the operation of the transportation group. On the contrary, appropriate fire department personnel should be assigned to this group to coordinate with other groups and those organizations providing transportation. The transportation group's responsibilities are as follows:

- \* Determine transportation requirements and the availability of ambulances and other methods of transportation.
- \* Report resource requirements and progress to the incident commander.
- \* Identify ambulance staging and loading areas. If applicable, determine helicopter landing zones.
- \* Obtain the patient handling capabilities of the medical facilities that are to receive the patients.
- \* Determine the specific entry and exit locations from the triage area. Coordinate the order of patient transportation and medical facility allocation with the treatment group.
- \* Establish a method for transporting walking wounded.
- \* Coordinate with other groups.

Good management strategies must be used to handle both small and large incidents. The group arrangement should facilitate the task of coordinating both small and large incidents. Remember that preparation is vital to achieve good results. Train and work with this system continually so that company members will become familiar with it.

(Reprinted with permission from IFSTA Speaking of Fire; Spring 1990)

## TRAINING IN CONTEXT PAYS BIG DIVIDENDS

by

William E. Perrin  
District Chief

Stevensville Rural Fire District

On Friday, March 23 the Stevensville Rural Fire District and the Town of Stevensville were called to a structure fire at the Selway Corporation Metal Fabrication Plant. Upon arrival we found heavy smoke showing from a large 12,000 square foot steel fabrication building. We also had fire showing from a small compressor building attached to the main facility. (Total involvement; 2000 sq. ft.) After some difficulty in gaining access to the tightly secured building, we were able to get three crews with 1-3/4" attack lines into the building to knock the fire down. The total operation involved 68 fire fighters on the fireground, 9 on standby in station, 7 engines, 5 water tenders and 3 support vehicles. We laid one 5-inch line for a water supply and set up 2 complete auxiliary porta tank water supplies. We went through approximately 80 bottles of air, using approximately 30 SCBA's. Automatic mutual aid was received from the Town of Stevensville as Victor and fire departments from Three Mile, Florence, and Corvallis provided mutual aid. Damage estimates run from \$275,000 to \$350,000 to the structure, but fire fighters saved the building valued at over one million dollars.

Our post incident critique identified the following: more SCBA's and crews were needed; more forcible entry training and equipment is needed; some of the SCBA's and fire fighters in the interior attack were not equipped with PASS devices; a rapid response crew was needed at each entry point for

backup; also crew integrity initially was a problem. All in all it was felt the operation went well with the results being very positive. The Company was back in operation on a limited basis within one day and back in full operation within three days.

In retrospect and review, I feel we need to give a great deal of credit for this success to our training program. It prepared us to penetrate and complete an offensive attack on such a large facility. In February 1988 a Fireground Operations Class was held in Stevensville introducing contextual training to our valley. Since that time a number of departments have initiated contextual training. From that training, we gained sufficient confidence and proficiency to enabled us to perform an aggressive interior attack on the Selway building. The Incident Command System worked very well. Command's span of control was reduced to 3 by the use of divisions. Through the divisions, we were able to monitor progress and track crews while assuring their safety.

We are very proud of our fire fighters and the job they did on the Selway fire. We still have some things we need to work on, however, we feel that by continuing the concept of training in context (or training in the manner that we want to operate on the fireground) we can reduce those problems. It appears that when the pressure is on and the pagers go off we can only perform as we have trained. We feel training in context is the best thing to happen to the fire service since the invention of water.

**Abilities are like tax deductions -  
we use them or we loose them.**





Missoula Rural's snorkel working the Corvallis burn, directing a cooling mist to the wall of a nearby structure. (Bob Olson photo)

Ravalli area fire departments demonstrated graphically what the term "mutual aid" means.

When the Corvallis Volunteer Fire Department was asked to do a controlled burn of the razed Bay's Store Building, seven area departments responded to the call for assistance. While the burn went off without a hitch, the equipment and manpower available was comforting. Assisting in the controlled burn were resources from Missoula Rural, Florence, Three-Mile, Stevensville City and Rural, Victor, Pinesdale and Hamilton. Controlling the fire scene were six engines, four water tenders and two trucks with elevated streams. 45 fire fighters were involved in the operation.

In the event of a fire in one of the communities whose equipment was committed to the burn, a task force consisting of four engines, a water tender and 16 fire fighters were on standby to respond anywhere in the valley. There were no fires requiring the use of the task force.

This kind of mutual aid comes into play whenever there is a major fire in the area, with adjacent departments having automatic mutual aid agreements.

**If you cannot do great things, do small things in a great way.**

## **CAUGHT BEING PROFESSIONAL** (From press clippings)

February 5, Inspector John Staley of the Billings Fire Department fights fire with education. Using puppets to present fire safety messages to children and helping produce a video on juvenile fire setters.

March 9, Helena Fire Marshal Bob Knutson ruled out the 1 percent chance that arson was involved in the fire.

March 15, Culbertson Fire Department switches to larger diameter supply line.

March 15, Shelby Fire Department actively pushing smoke detectors and wood stove safety.

March 21, Laurel fire fighter wearing SCBA during overhaul of a garage fire.

March 25, Glendive Fire Chief credits smoke detectors with minimizing fire losses.

## **KUDOS KUDOS KUDOS KUDOS**

TOM TAYLOR, Chief; Glendive and BOB EGGBRECHT, Chief; West Glendive and their personnel for the commitment and preparation which resulted in the success of the Glendive Fireground Operations Course.

Special "Thanks" to Richard Clements, Sheridan Fire Department for video taping the recent 40 Hour program on Haz Mats.



### --- FSTS WINDFALL ---

The Cody Fire School sent out post cards to several fire departments indicating their fee for this year's Code Fire School is \$60. Their cards were signed Fire School Committee. This is not us! Checks that we have received have been returned. Don't fret, your department will receive its regular Resource Center invoice in July.

### VOLUNTEER FIRE FIGHTER CONVENTION JUNE 14 - 16 1990 CORVALLIS, MONTANA

Three days of meetings and workshops are planned at this year's Volunteer Fire Fighter Convention being held in Corvallis starting June 14.

Special Workshop topics include:

Fire Risks of Insecticides, and Pesticides At Local Grocery Stores  
- Dr. Dieter Heinz

State Retirement Programs - Mike O'Conner, Helena

NFPA 1500 Safety Standard - Bob Miller, California

Public Education - Phil Frank, Billings Fire Department

Building Inspections - Larry McCann, Billings Fire Department

Electrical Burns - Terry Park, Corvallis

State Lands Paperwork - Paul May, Missoula

Fire Fighter I - Butch Weedon, State Fire School

Local Paperwork

### SOME COURSES OF INTEREST

#### CHLORINE SAFETY TRAINING

Great Western Chemical Company is sponsoring two, 3-1/2 hour training sessions on chlorine safety. Each session will include information on the properties of chlorine, proper handling techniques, health effects of chlorine exposure and emergency response to incidents. The two sessions are scheduled at:

Colonial Inn, Helena - Monday  
May 7 - 1:30 PM

Missoula Red Lion Inn - Tuesday  
May 8 - 9 AM

Interested individuals should call Greg Peterson (442-8900) to reserve a slot.

#### HAZARDOUS MATERIALS COURSES

HAZ MATS INCIDENT  
MANAGEMENT (8 AM)

Shelby - May 19 & 20  
FSTS - June 2 & 3  
Baker - Sept 22 & 23

HAZ MATS INCIDENT ANALYSIS  
(8:30 AM)

Thompson Falls - May 5 & 6  
Twin Bridges - May 5 & 6  
Havre - May 19 & 20  
FSTS - June 9 & 10  
Billings #1 - June 9 & 10  
Frenchtown - Aug 4 & 5  
Big Timber - Sept 8 & 9

FIRE CAUSE DETERMINATION  
COURSE, FSTS, May 19 & 20

There will be a Friday, May 18 session for the private investigators at the Holiday Inn. The Ed Plaughter Course starts on Saturday, May 19 at 8:30 AM.

#### RESIDENTIAL SPRINKLER SYSTEMS

Heritage Inn, Great Falls,  
May 17, 9 AM to 4:30 PM.

# Let's RETIRE FIRE

Fire Fighters: fill in blanks with local information.

(Organization Letterhead)

## For Immediate Release

Contact Name:

Address:

Telephone:

Date:

(City) , (State) - (Name) announced today that (your fire organization) is launching a public education program - *Let's Retire Fire* - to educate older Americans about fire safety. This program is part of a national effort to reduce senior citizen injuries and deaths by fire, sponsored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency's U.S. Fire Administration.

Unfortunately, the United States has one of the highest fire death rates in the industrialized world. And our older Americans are at the highest risk of fire-related deaths - double that of the rest of the population. Every year more than 1,300 Americans 65 and over die in fires. These fire deaths and injuries are tragic but preventable.

*Let's Retire Fire* teaches senior citizens simple steps to combat fire hazards. To get these safety messages out, (organization) will run local print and radio public service announcements and will distribute home safety checklists to senior citizens in the area.

Observed (name) , (title) , "This is one of the best opportunities we have to make a real impact on the senior citizen fire problem in our area. Last year alone, we lost (#) people and/or \$ (#) in property, needlessly. If we all become partners to combat this fire problem, we'd probably reduce senior citizen fires by more than half.

"I think that's a commitment worth making, and that's why we're cooperating whole heartedly with the United States Fire Administration on this effort. We're going to do our best, with the community's help, to turn our senior citizen fire problem around."

#



Federal Emergency  
Management Agency

U. S.  
Fire Administration



# Let's RETIRE FIRE

Americans proudly lead the world in many areas. However, there's one area where we can't pride ourselves for coming in first. The United States has one of the highest fire death rates in the industrialized world. And older Americans are at the highest risk of fire-related deaths, double that of the rest of the population.

Every year, over 1,300 Americans 65 and older die in fires. Last year in \_\_\_\_\_ (city) \_\_\_\_\_, we had \_\_\_\_\_ (#) \_\_\_\_\_ fires resulting in \_\_\_\_\_ (#) \_\_\_\_\_ senior citizen fire injuries or deaths.

If these statistics are news to you, that's part of the problem. Many Americans are unfamiliar with the range and severity of fire-related hazards and older Americans, in particular, suffer from a lack of information about how to prevent fires.

Fire-associated deaths, injuries and property losses are tragic. However, the real tragedy is that these injuries and losses are preventable. The leading causes of fire injuries and death to seniors – unsafe use of smoking materials, fires caused by alternate heaters, fires in the kitchen and electrical related problems – can be reduced by taking precautionary measures as easy as installing smoke detectors.

Simple as this may sound, many older Americans still live in homes without smoke detectors or do not maintain the detectors they have. Eighty percent of elderly people who die in fires do not have a working smoke detector, and in 75 percent of the cases, no detector was even present. When properly installed and maintained, smoke detectors can give senior citizens time to escape a fire without injury or death.

The people of \_\_\_\_\_ (city) \_\_\_\_\_ have successfully collaborated in the past to combat threats to our community. Our fire department is asking our community to mobilize our resources and create a partnership for senior fire safety.

What can you do to encourage fire safety?

- Lend a helping hand to seniors who may need help installing and maintaining smoke detectors.
- Conduct home fire safety checks for older Americans in your neighborhood.
- Distribute fire prevention materials to seniors you know.

Together, we can prevent the homes and lives of our seniors from going up in smoke.

The \_\_\_\_\_ (name of fire department) \_\_\_\_\_ exists to serve and protect the people of this community. If you have any questions on helping seniors fight fire or anything else affecting your home safety, we want to hear from you. We can help!

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Your Name)



Federal Emergency  
Management Agency

U.S.  
Fire Administration





# Plentywood Volunteer Fire Department

## Standard Operating Procedure:

20

### Advance & Extend Preconnected Hand Line

**OBJECTIVE:** a 3-man crew of firefighters will perform the procedure's sequence of events to standards of safety and accuracy satisfactory to the instructor, within a 1-minute time for the first part of the drill, and 2:15 for the second part of the drill.

**TERMS: 'Officer':** Crew leader, carrying handlight and portable radio. During this operation, this crew member will be positioned directly behind the nozzleman, with primary assignment of observing operations of the line and directing the nozzleman; assisting with line management only as needed.

**'# 1':** the Nozzleman, crew member with both hands free of other tools for nozzle operation

**'# 2':** the crew member carrying forcible entry tool(s) in one hand, with other hand free to support crew operations performed by # 1. Normally this crew member will be 'strapped in' to the line with his personal hosestrap over the shoulder opposite the line.

**Procedure:** This drill is run in two parts:

A. Advancing Preconnected handline

B. Extending a preconnected handline

First: Advancing Preconnected 1 3/4' or 2 1/2' handline from hosebed on Engine

**TIME STARTS WITH ORDER TO ADVANCE (DESIGNATED) PRECONNECTED LINE**

**Officer:** On order from command, orders crew to Advance (designated) preconnect, and directs movements and operations of the crew from position directly behind nozzleman

**#2:** Backs up Nozzleman, ONLY

- #1:** — Steps up to designated hosebed; Grasps nozzle and pull loops with both hands, and pulls them over one shoulder  
— Steps off truck, pulling load behind  
— proceeds toward objective  
— when pulled line pulls up tight (when he 'feels the truck') nozzleman drops the pull loop, and proceeds

**Officer:** when team is in position, officer radios truck for water: 'charge (color) line'

**TIME ENDS WITH WATER AT THE NOZZLE**

Extending a preconnected line

**TIME STARTS WITH ORDER TO ADVANCE AND EXTEND (DESIGNATED) PRECONNECTED LINE:**

After advancing the designated line as above, until #1 'feels the truck':

- #2 lays his entry tool(s) down just ahead of the first nozzle
- As #1 disconnects the nozzle from the first line, Officer and # 2 return to engine
- #2 advances second preconnected line, officer remains at truck until second line is fully clear of truck, then disconnects the second line from pump discharge
- Then, on order from officer to advance, # 2 advances the second line as officer moves the female end of the second line to the male (nozzle) end of the first line
- #1 connects the two lines together, and picks up the forcible entry tool(s), moves up to backup the new nozzleman, #2, and when crew is again 'tight' the extended line is advanced to operation, with # 2 becoming the new nozzleman, and # 1 becoming the new backup; crew advances to position
- when team is in position, officer radios truck for water: 'charge (color) line' [NOTE: the extended line has become the (color) of the original line, not the color of the tape on the nozzle!] When ready, orders crew to Advance, and directs movements and operations of the crew from position directly behind nozzleman

**TIME ENDS WITH WATER AT THE NOZZLE OF THE EXTENDED LINE**

**EVACUATION:** on hearing "Hi-Lo" Siren tones, all crews immediately evacuate to or beyond the perimeter!!

**SAFETY FIRST -- Then ACCURACY -- then SPEED**  
**Plentywood Firefighters are the Best!**

## 1990 TRAINING SCHEDULE

It is important to Pre-Register for each of the following courses as minimum attendance has been established and must be met or class will be cancelled. NOTE: (NFA-National Fire Academy Field Courses); (FSTS-Fire Services Training School located in Great Falls Vo-Tech Center, 2100 16th Avenue South); (EMS-EMS Bureau, 444-3895); (DES-Disaster & Emergency Services, 444-6963); (DOT-Department of Transportation); (DSL-Department of State Lands, 542-4300); (MSPOA-Montana Sheriffs and Police Officers Association; (\*Application required. Limited class size. Contact FSTS.) Satellite Programs on SPACENET 1, Channel 3 begin at 9 AM and conclude at approximately 1:30 PM.

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<u>DATE</u>	<u>COURSE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
<b><u>May 1990</u></b>		
5 - 6	NFA Tactical Operations For Company Officers - Part II (TOCO II)	FSTS
5 - 6	Haz Mats Incident Analysis	Twin Bridges
5 - 6	Haz Mats Incident Analysis	Thompson Falls
7	Chlorine Safety (Colonial Inn)	Helena
8	Chlorine Safety (Red Lion Inn)	Missoula
10	Haz Mat Training Report	Satellite
11 - 1PM	Joint Council Meeting (FD Trng Center)	Great Falls
11 - 7PM	FTS Advisory Council (FD Trng Center)	Great Falls
12 - 9AM	FTS Advisory Council (FD Trng Center)	Great Falls
17	Residential Sprinkler Sem (Heritage)	Great Falls
19 - 20	Determining Fire Cause (\$25 Fee) Ed Plaugher, Instructor	Great Falls FSTS
19 - 20	Haz Mats Incident Management	Shelby
19 - 20	Haz Mats Incident Analysis	NMC (Havre)
23	Volunteer Fire/Emergency Services 1990s (6 PM - 8 PM)	Satellite Westar 5, Ch 4
<b><u>June 1990</u></b>		
1 - 3	Fireground Operations (Tentative)	Seeley Lake
2 - 3	Haz Mats Incident Management	FSTS
9	Blaine County Fire School	Chinook
9 - 10	Haz Mats Incident Analysis	FSTS
9 - 10	Haz Mats Incident Analysis	Billings Sta #2
14	Anhydrous Ammonia	Satellite
14 - 16	Volunteer Fire Fighters Convention	Corvallis
14 - 16	Residential Sprinkler Trailer	Corvallis
<b><u>July 1990</u></b>		
17 - 20	MT Council Professional FF and MT State Firemans Assoc Convention	Missoula
21 - 22	Residential Sprinkler Trailer	Fairfield
26 - 27	Residential Sprinkler Trailer	Havre
28 - 29	Haz Mats Incident Management	Laurel
28 - 31	Residential Sprinkler Trailer	Great Falls

**August 1990**

4 - 5	Haz Mats Incident Analysis	Frenchtown
8 - 11	Residential Sprinkler Trailer	Livingston
9	External Defibrillators	Satellite
11	Fire Service Organizations	Satellite
16	Geo-Based Info Systems	Satellite
29 - 31	Residential Sprinkler Trailer	Stevensville

**September 1990**

3	Residential Sprinkler Trailer	Dillon
6 - 8	Code Course	(To be determined)
8 - 9	Haz Mats Incident Analysis	Big Timber
18 - 22	Int'l Assoc Fire Chiefs	Orlando, FL
22 - 23	Haz Mats Incident Management	Baker
28 - 29	Montana Fire Chiefs Conference	Kalispell

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**REGISTRATION FORM**

Course: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Department \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Return to: Montana Fire Services Training School; 2100 16th Avenue South;  
Great Falls, Montana 59405-4997 Phone: 761-7885





FIRE GUARD NEWSLETTER  
ISSUES Fire Training School  
100 16th Avenue South  
Great Falls MT 59405-4997

*Let's*  
**RETIRE  
FIRE**

**BULK RATE**